living, health and safety, efficiency, training and welfare. The Commission was also required to review the adequacy and effectiveness of the industrial relations mechanisms like Code of Discipline, Joint management Councils, Wage Boards etc. and make appropriate recommendations. The recommendations of the First National Commission on Labour have been taken into account in the areas of wage policy and minimum wage, improving and strengthening efficiency of employment services, vocational training, labour statistics, research and workers' education. A lot of changes have taken place between the date the First National Commission on Labour submitted its recommendations in August, 1969 and the date the decision to constitute the Second National Commission on Labour was taken by the Government on 24th December, 1998. The changes have taken place in the industrial climate, labour market, employment relations, status of industrial enterprises by way of merger and amalgamation and overall changes in the scenario of industrial relations in the wake of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. The terms of reference of the Second National Commission on Labour have been fixed keeping these changes in the view. Under the approved terms of reference the Commission is required to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector and to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector.' The Commission is required to make its recommendations within 24 months from the date of notification in the Gazette *i.e.* by 15.10.2001.

Harassment of Labourers

4489. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some cases have been reported regarding harassment of labourers on the basis of their ethnicity and religion;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the action is being taken to ensure that no labourer is subjected to harassment especially on the basis of his ethnicity and religion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) A news-item had appeared in the Indian Express dated 27.09.2000 wherein harassment of migrant labour was reported on communal grounds in Bhatinda, Punjab. A report was called from SSP, Bhatinda and it has been indicated in the report that no harassment of labourers took place on the basis of their ethnicity or religion. Meetings have also been conducted by the District Administration with the labourers and the leaders to maintain peace and amity.

Comprehensive legislation for workers not covered under Social Security Schemes

4490. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers engaged in agriculture, construction, forest, home based industries and domestic servants are around 90 per cent of the total workforce and they are not covered under the Social Security Scheme like Provident Fund, ESI, Gratuity and Pension and they are also not covered under any other Labour Act; and

(b) if so, whether there is any specific proposal for bringing a comprehensive legislation for this section of workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR